

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02804 111001Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NEA-14

SS-20 NSC-07 EB-11 DRC-01 /124 W

----- 120053

R 110910Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3342

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMFAIRMED

COMFAIRMEDREP ATHENS

CHJUSMAGG

S E C R E T ATHENS 2804

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJ: DISCUSSION OF SOUDA AB AGREEMENT WITH

CINCHELFOR

REFS: A. STATE 084028; B. ATHENS 2670; C. STATE 094209

1. ON MAY 9 AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY POL/MIL OFFICER AND AARMA, CALLED ON GEN. BONANOS, CINCHELFOR, IN ORDER TO CONVEY ACCURATELY AND FULLY NATURE OF USG REACTION TO EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES INTRODUCED BY GOG IN SOUDA AB DRAFTS AND TO RESULTANT DELAYS IN REACHING AGREEMENT. BONANOS HAD PRESENT MG HANIOTIS HA, DIR A BRANCH, SHAF, THROUGH WHOSE INTERPRETATION BOTH AMBASSADOR AND BONANOS SPOKE, AND NOTETAKER.

2. AMBASSADOR WENT OVER ESSENTIALLY SAME GROUND COVERED ON MAY 6 IN CALL ON PM (SEE REF B), STRESSING DISAPPOINT-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ATHENS 02804 111001Z

MENT FELT BY US AT DELAYS EXPERIENCED IN REACHING AGREE-

MENT ON SOUDA AB AND CONCOMITANT DEFERRAL OF FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF HOMEPORTING. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS BRINGING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF GEN. BONANOS BECAUSE SUCH DEVELOPMENTS INEVITABLY HAD AFFECT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND GREEK MILITARY.

3. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT AMONG PROVISIONS IN GREEK DRAFTS USG FOUND PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT WERE THREE PROBLEM CLUSTERS: (A) THOSE WHICH WOULD CHANGE NATO SOFA, WHICH WERE UNACCEPTABLE NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF INAPPROPRIATENESS OF VEHICLE AND VENUE BUT BECAUSE SOFA WAS FLOOR FOR TREATMENT OF VISITING FORCE, FOR WHICH USG MANY YEARS BEFORE HAD SOUGHT AND SECURED ADDITIONAL RIGHTS THROUGH BILATERALS WITH VIRTUALLY ALL NATO COUNTRIES; (B) THOSE WHICH WOULD CHANGE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, THUS INTRODUCING AT SOUDA AB A REGIMEN DIFFERENT FROM THAT UNDER WHICH US FORCES ELSEWHERE IN GREECE OPERATED, WHICH USG COULD NOT ACCEPT. AMBASSADOR REPEATED USG'S WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS BILATERALS, IF GOG FELT NEED TO DO SO, BUT NOT AS PART OF NEGOTIATION OF ARRANGEMENT FOR SPECIFIC FACILITY; AND (C) INTERRELATED ISSUES OF SHORT TENURE, SUMMARY TERMINATION, AND CONFISCATORY CLAUSES RE FIXED AND MOVABLE PROPERTY, WHICH WERE INDEFENSIBLE BEFORE CONGRESS.

4. AMBASSADOR NOTED ATTITUDE, EVIDENT IN GOG DRAFT AND ELSEWHERE, THAT IMBALANCE IN OBLIGATIONS WOULD REQUIRE USG TO GIVE SOMETHING FOR BASE RIGHTS. HE STATED THAT THIS THESIS NOT ACCEPTED BY USG, THAT COMMON MEMBERSHIP IN NATO CREATED SPECIAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, AND THAT US CONTRIBUTION TOOK MANY FORMS, OF WHICH SECURITY ASSISTANCE BUT ONE. AMBASSADOR INDICATED USG APPRECIATION OF FACT THAT GREECE MAKING CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS DEFENSE CAPABILITY, WHICH HE FELT TO BE IMPORTANT, AND EXPLAINED THAT WITHIN LIMITATIONS OF RESOURCES PROVIDED BY CONGRESS (WHICH "VOICE OF PEOPLE") USG WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT COULD TO ASSIST GREEK FORCES.

5. AMBASSADOR COMPLETED HIS PRESENTATION BY SUGGESTING THAT, UPON RESOLUTION WITH FONOFF OF IMPORTANT PROBLEMS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ATHENS 02804 111001Z

NOW IMPEDING PROGRESS ON SOUDA AB AGREEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS BE RETURNED TO MILITARY LEVEL FOR NEGOTIATION OF TECHNICAL DETAILS.

6. BONANOS BEGAN REMARKS WITH EXPOSITION OF GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION OF GREECE, NOTABLY LONG BORDERS WITH WELL-ARMED COMMUNIST STATES, LACK OF DEPTH FOR DEFENSE, INEVITABLE DELAYS IN ARRIVAL OF SUPPORTING FORCES FROM ALLIES IN EVENT

OF LOCAL WAR (E.G., A "SURPRISE ATTACK BY BULGARIA")
AND RESULTANT NEED FOR GREEK FORCES TO BE STRENGTHENED TO
POINT WHERE CRITICAL TERRAIN WOULD NOT BE LOST INITIALLY.
HE POINTED OUT THAT HE FOUND GREEK FORCES IN LOW STATE OF
READINESS WHEN HE ASSUMED HIS CURRENT POSITION ON
NOV 25, 1973. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN HAF, WHICH
WAS VERY FAR BEHIND. HE HAD PLACED PROBLEM IMMEDIATELY
ON SHOULDER OF GOVERNMENT. HE STATED THAT GREEK FORCES
HAD TO BE PREPARED TO FACE NATIONAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS
TO MEET THEIR NATO OBLIGATIONS.

7. BONANOS WENT ON TO SAY THAT POLITICS OF ISSUES COVERED
BY AMBASSADOR OUTSIDE OF HIS COMPETENCY AND BELONGED WITH
GOVERNMENT. HE EXPRESSED REGRET AT DISAPPOINTMENT FELT BY
AMBASSADOR AND FOR DELAYS EXPERIENCED ON SOUDA AB AND
HOMEPORTING. AS CINCHFOR HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO
FACILITATE COMPLETION OF AGREEMENTS, BUT NOT IN OPPOSITION
TO GOVERNMENT POLICY. HE BELIEVED THAT IMPROVEMENTS WOULD
BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

8. IN CONTINUATION OF HIS REMARKS, BONANOS URGED
AMBASSADOR TO DO WHATEVER WAS POSSIBLE TO MODERNIZE GREEK
FORCES. HE NOTED THAT, IN ANY EVENT, DECISION HAD BEEN
TAKEN BY GOG TO MODERNIZE FORCES. AMBASSADOR REITERATED
INTENTION TO SUPPORT SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE, AS HE
HAD FROM HIS ARRIVAL AS AMBASSADOR, BECAUSE IT A MATTER
ABOVE QUESTIONS OF REGIME OR GOVERNMENT. IT WAS A MATTER
OF US RELATIONSHIP WITH GREEK NATION, AS HE HAD TOLD
CONGRESS. BONANOS AGREED THAT LEADERS WERE TRANSIENTS
BUT THAT TIES OF US AND GREEK PEOPLES AN HISTORIC
REALITY.

9. COMMENTS: EMBASSY FORESEES SOME GOG WITHDRAWAL FROM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 ATHENS 02804 111001Z

EXTREME POSITIONS ADVANCED IN SOUDA AB DRAFTS, BUT EXTENT
OF THIS WILL NOT BECOME CLEAR UNTIL SPECIFIC PROVISIONS
OF CURRENT GOG DRAFT NEGOTIATED WITH FONOFF.
TASCA

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, SOUDA AIRBASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS02804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740116-0203
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740555/aaaabwxm.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 084028; B. ATHENS 2670; C., STATE 094209
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION OF SOUDA AB AGREEMENT WITH CINCHELFOR
TAGS: MARR, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005